(d) and (e) In consideration of the difficult characteristics of the Rajasthan crude oil, being very heavy and highly waxy in nature (with very high pour point) and the difficulty in transporting it to a distant Refinery location for further processing, it was envisaged that feasibility of setting up a well-head refinery be explored by a Joint Venture of MRPL, ONGC and Cairn Energy India Limited (CEIL).

Discussions held between the Premier of Western Australia and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2366. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Premier of Western Australia visited India and held talks with the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural gas in February, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held between the two sides; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Premier of Western Australia visited India and met Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas in February, 2007 and held discussion on bilateral cooperation between India and Australia in the hydrocarbon sector. The meeting reviewed the ongoing co-operation in this sector between companies in India and Australia. The Minister sought increased participation of Australian companies in NELP rounds and LNG supply contracts.

Sale of adulterated petrol in Bihar

2367. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether petrol pump dealers in Bihar are selling adulterated petrol and diesel freely;

(b) the number of petrol and diesel samples lifted in Bihar during the last two years and how many of them were found adulterated;